

Bloomington Sister City Organization  
2007 Senshu Marathon  
Representatives Selected



For the past nine years, Izumi City has invited two Bloomington runners to participate in the Senshu International Marathon in Izumi City, Japan. Tom Anderson, *above*, and Gary Van Cleve, *below*, will represent Bloomington in this world-class event in February 2007.



Anderson works in the City of Bloomington Finance Department. He has run 16 Twin Cities, two Boston and two Dallas White Rock marathons. Van Cleve works for Bloomington-based Larkin Hoffman Daly & Lindgren, LTD in the firm’s Real Estate Litigation Department. A competitive runner in high school and college, he has competed in Grandma’s, a dozen Twin Cities and two Boston marathons.

The standards for the Senshu International Marathon are stringent, including a finish in less than four and one-half hours. Both Anderson and Van Cleve project finishing times of three hours and thirty-five minutes. Bloomington and Izumi City are Sister Cities. For more information, call 952-563-8713 or visit [www.bloomington-izumi.org](http://www.bloomington-izumi.org).

What’s at Creekside  
Tax Preparation Assistance



Two free income tax assistance programs are available at Creekside, 9801 Penn Ave. S., on a first-come, first-served basis to individuals who meet income-qualifying guidelines. AccountAbility Minnesota provides tax assistance to individuals with incomes of \$25,000 or less and to families with incomes of \$40,000 or less on **Saturdays, February 3 - April 14, 9 a.m. - noon**, and **Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 30 - April 12, 6 - 9 p.m.** AARP Tax-Aide, in partnership with the City of Bloomington, provides tax preparation services to middle- and low-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Services are **Mondays and Tuesdays, February 5 - April 10 (except February 19), 9 a.m. - noon**. Taxpayers with complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance. Federal tax forms are available for photocopying at Creekside.

Going with the Flow of Your Home  
Ramblers Easily Adapt to Fit Today’s Needs

Shawn Nelson bought his Bloomington rambler on York Road and 84th Street eight years ago. One of the first projects on the three-bedroom, 1965 home was remodeling the basement. “The right lighting and egress windows made the basement a nice, bright space,” Nelson said. “We have more room and it was a lot less expensive than an addition.” Some features of the 1950s and 1960s ramblers, such as the limited countertop space in Nelson’s original galley-style kitchen, don’t suit homeowners’ needs today. To better fit his lifestyle, he relocated the plumbing so the kitchen and dining room could exchange spaces. “Before, we had to go into the dining room to prepare the food and then bring it back into the kitchen,” Nelson said. “The new design allows for two walls of additional cabinets and room for an island. It also keeps traffic flow outside of the main cooking area.”

In many traditional ramblers, a center wall separates the kitchen from the living room. Nelson, who is president of New Spaces, a Burnsville design/build remodeling company, said removing the wall gave the home an open feel, similar to new homes constructed today. “People are apprehensive about taking out the center wall because it is load-bearing,” Nelson said. “But today, putting a beam in the attic to carry the load and opening the space is commonplace.” By remodeling, Nelson said he has added value to his home and now he really enjoys it. He is a big fan of the rambler. “In terms of the way people live, it’s great,” Nelson said. “The living space can

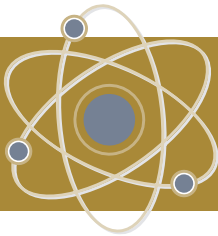


Shawn Nelson’s new kitchen design allows for more cabinets, an island and a cooking area that better suits his needs.



be on one level, which works for people of any age, but especially seniors. You can open up the boxy rooms, which is great for family gatherings or entertaining. The rambler is such an adaptable housing structure.”

Remodels That Work: The Kitchen  
Keep a Kitchen Remodel from Looking Dated



Polished granite counters, restaurant-grade stoves, glass mosaic tile – these contemporary hallmarks are found in almost every remodeled kitchen you see, whether in a 1920s bungalow, a 4,000-square-foot home or a modest postwar rambler. But the harvest gold and avocado schemes now considered tacky were plenty popular in their day. One of the best ways to keep a kitchen remodel from looking dated is to make sure it fits the style of the home, not just the style of the times. One family who lives in a 1967 modernist ranch in Portland, Oregon, had high-end 1990s kitchens in their past

few homes, but budget, timeline and a new aesthetic caused them to rethink the same ol’, same ol’. The kitchen in their home came with painted paneling, blue vinyl flooring and ceiling-hung cabinets over a breakfast bar. The family found it to be too dated and depressing, so opted to gut the space. Beneath the flooring was a cement slab that the couple acid stained, sealed and waxed. Despite the husband’s misgivings, they drove three hours to check out cabinetry at IKEA. Prior to that trip they looked at custom cabinets – too expensive, too long a lead time – and standard line – too traditional and unexciting. During Portland’s rainy season, you really don’t want to be outside grilling in a makeshift kitchen. From past projects the couple was confident that they could assemble and install the cabinets and the mass-

- Why This Kitchen Works:**
- Some materials and appliances are straight out of the midcentury playbook: laminate counters, cement floors, wall ovens and cooktops.
  - You don’t have to reinvent the wheel: The layout is similar to the original kitchen designed for the home.
  - Warm wood veneer cabinets keep the stainless appliances, sleek counters and slab floor from looking too cold.



This kitchen’s clean, modernist lines fit the open-plan architecture of the home.



**Learn More About Ramblers**

Michelle Gringeri-Brown and Jim Brown formerly lived in Edina in a postwar rambler. They publish *Atomic Ranch*, a quarterly magazine devoted to mid-century homes. For information, visit [www.atomic-ranch.com](http://www.atomic-ranch.com).

produced affordability had an additional perk – they could change the look of the kitchen by getting new doors in the future. They chose inexpensive laminate countertops, also from IKEA, leaving more of the budget for a high-quality cooktop, oven, microwave, dishwasher and backsplash tile. The top-mount sink and faucet can be reused if they upgrade to concrete countertops as they may in a few years. The project’s biggest changes were eliminating the overhead cabinets, which opened up the galley kitchen to the family room, and putting the refrigerator where a walk-in pantry had been. A tall cabinet opposite the wall oven now holds pantry items and the refrigerator has the contemporary built-in look of a higher-end brand.

Photo: Jim Brown.